

HOPE VILTIS HOPE

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A P O L O G I A

I regret greatly that the January issue of VILTIS did not make its appearance. Our printer Valinskas, was deeply engaged with other contracts which he had to meet with the coming of the new year, and due to lack of help he was unable to print VILTIS as scheduled. Then too, my first three weeks of January were spent in Fairhope, Ala., and the mail was not forwarded to me, even tho I asked the landlord that he do that favor for me, personally, through card, and had Mrs. Jania call him. Therefore, I'm combining the January issue with February. Please forgive me, and if I can help it, nothing like that will happen again.

TO THE FOLK DANCE MINDED

Starting with the March issue of VILTIS, we will carry articles and descriptions of folk games and dances, including the music. Please save all copies as they will prove of value to you.

LITHUANIAN-AMERICAN CONGRESS

From Nov. 29 to Dec. 1, over a thousand delegates from every Lithuanian colony in the States met at the Congress Hotel, Chicago, to plead for freedom for subjugated and terrorized Lithuania. Only the Quisling Communist groups did not participate. Among the guests and speakers were congressmen, Governor Dwight H. Green of Illinois, and Archbishop Strich of the Chicago Diocese. The Archbishop personified Lithuania as the symbol of freedom, as did Congressman O'Konski. Among the guest were seen many Lithuanian boys in uniform who fought in this war to liberate the world from oppressors and tyrants.

Two eye-witness stories of the wanton slaughter and sadistic murders perpetrated by the Communists, were related by two American-born lads, Edward Seibutis of Chicago and Vladas Vaitkus of Philadelphia who were caught in Lithuania. The cruelties seemed unbelievable. A brutality that nothing could equal for bestiality. Even the sturdiest of men wiped their eyes and women wept openly.

Archbishop Strich said:

"The American bishops in their recent statement warned against Soviet Russia's aims in the Baltics. An attempt is being made to destroy Christian civilization by the Soviets. There have been many such attempts made in the history of Europe, but never before have we seen in history an attempt made to destroy the race of men."

Yet, extermination of races of men goes on, and with our blessing, because the worst of tyrants appears to be our ally!

*Please take Notice of new address change. It is the same location where I had my Studio before the war.*

DEDICATED TO LIETUVA

THIS ISSUE OF VILTIS is dedicated to Lithuania, one of the countries that has been victimized and sold down the river in the name of a new form of "appeasement."

FIRST LYS REUNION

The lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Sarett was the happy scene of the first reunion of the members of the Lithuanian Youth Society on December 23rd. The boys were back and dressed in their civilian best displaying their hard earned "Homing Pidgeon" buttoned in their lapel.

It was a happy evening, even tho nothing in particular took place. Everyone had a joyous time merely talking with each other and beaming with happiness to see their friends once again for the first time in four to six years. Not all of our LYS'rs were back. Joe Simbal and Eddie Wolod were still in Japan, Joe Lankus was still somewhere in the Pacific, Alex Savulsky in Manila, and Charlotte Sarett, the Yeomanette of our gracious hosts was still in San Francisco, but the majority were present.

Among those present were; Lee Bartkus, Jane Matecunas, Kazy and Lil Cinskas-Dulys, Julius and Julia Katkus-Bugailiskis, Alex Spear, Al and Helen Kungis-Lankus, Patsie McNamara, George Lavell, Dorothy Kelly-Frias and her little daughter Barbara, Ernest and Estelle Dulinsky, Bob Keller still in his Lt. Air Force uniform, for he was discharged on that very day, Jimmy Carroll, Arthur Tumosa, Paul and Venus Tumosa-Love, Eddie McNeil, John Lister who was our evening pianists, yours truly, and Miriam Rosenbloom, to whom we are grateful for preparing the refreshments and who with the Sarett, have done everything possible for an enjoyable evening. We sure wished Charlotte was present. Tho her little sister, Beatrice, represented her.

We did get to do a few folk dances and even practiced on the Lithuanian Wedding dance in case of a few "emergencies" at something in the offing. But the talk-fest was the best fun.

Many, due to previous engagements, were unable to be present and we missed them. We also missed Charles Rudauskas, our only LYS member to die in the service of his country. But we haven't forgotten him.

Once again, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Sarett for making this reunion possible, and opening their home to us, and thank to Miriam for her part. — LYS,

"BOOTS"

By Lt. James Casebere

Her name is "Boots." You notice her when you meet because the regularity of her features and the quickness in her movements mark her more as an American than a Filipino. Despite her brown skin and her small figure you know her to be part of the foreign element here in the Islands.

There's nothing remarkable about Boots, except her constant friendly smile. She's quiet, not shy and not bold, but definitely a lady. If you talk to her you will learn that the main thing in her life is a deep, almost terrifying love for her father. Her father, she will tell you, was killed last summer when the Americans shelled Manila. If you press her she will tell you proudly that he was an American soldier-of-fortune who came here to fight in the Spanish-American war and stayed to settle down, marry and develop a small shoe making plant.

Boots won't tell you much more. She'll tell you about the years she spent alone, walking miles daily so that she could stand outside the prison and wave to her father through the bars. She'll tell you about her weekly visit to the Japanese Embassy to beg permission to take him a little food. And she'll show you the grave where she tenderly buried him when it was all over.

But friends will tell you more. They will tell you how Boots lived in her little house in Makati, on the outskirts of Manila. How in "Jap-times" she sold furnishings from her home to live. How she helped friends who were starving and refused to quarter the Japanese Officers. Her sister will tell you how terrified she was when Boots quartered a guerilla officer for days and how she made friends with an American soldier in a prison. When the soldier escape Boots was the first to face the bayonets of the searchers.

And she will tell you how Boots smuggled shoes from her father's stock room to give to the guerilla bands in the hills. And how, when the shoes were worn out, she would take them back, give them to the Japanese shoemakers who now manned the bench in the shop; receive them newly hobnailed, and return them to the patriots.

You may remember her, if you do business with her in downtown Manila, only as the quiet little girl with the friendly smile. You may miss the greatness there.

THE POLISH HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Annual Polish Harvest Festival sponsored by Northwestern U. Settlement House, turned out to be a huge success, surpassing our expectations. Until a few weeks before the festival we did not have enough boys. We had no Polish lad to be the "bridegroom." I "drafted" two non-Polish sailors and made Poles out of them; Dean Saxton, PhM 3/C, and Edward McNeil, R/T 2/C. A week before the festival, Stanley Warzynski made his appearance and became the groom. Chester Szylder was the fourth lad. The festival turned out so well that some annual spectators thought it was the best festival ever held!

Some forty people participated. The "bride," as in past years, was Florence Giebutowska. Mr. Dutt was especially good as the master of ceremonies. The Lord and Lady of the Manor were Pinkie Richardson and Mr. Kaczmarek. The performance was very colorful. It opened with a procession by the peasantry who carried fruits and grain, garlands and gifts (including a live goose) to the Lord and Lady of the manor, and meanwhile performed the wedding between "Jasiu" and "Marysia." Traditional songs, gay dances and festivity with its "wykup"

and unveiling ceremonies were all presented. Among the dances performed were: Zasiali Gorale, Czerwony Pas, Mazurek, Krakowiak, Helena Polka, Wesole u Witosa and others.

The traditional bridegroom, Cpl. Casimir Zurawski, came in to Chicago discharged, on the Sunday following the Festival.

THE "INCORPORATION" OF LITHUANIA INTO THE SOVIET UNION

February 16 was once a happy day in Lithuania. It was her Independence Day, the anniversary of that day on which she was rid of German and Russian subjugation for a period of 25 years. Now, once again, Lithuania is crushed under the heel of Russian oppression.

Below is reprinted an eye-witness account of how Lithuania was "Incorporated," as written by Vladas Vaitkus, a young American of Lithuanian extraction, who succeeded in escaping from Lithuania after witnessing the horrors perpetrated by the Russian and Germans. Mr. Vaitkus, who fled from Lithuania on September 11, 1944, reached Sweden; and thru the auspices of the American Consulate there, was sent to the United States on August 15, 1945.

The acts of cruelty committed by the Germans and Russians would seem unbelievable to our readers. He saw the first Bolshevik occupation of Lithuania, as well as the German. He saw the bloody massacre by the Russians of Lithuanian political and innocent prisoners in the Forest of Raniai, where, besides the killing itself, mutilation of victim — their eyes pierced, noses, ears, tongues, sex organs, and breasts of women cut off—was carried out. Among the victims he found student friends. Such were carried out. Among the victims he found student friends. Such were the acts committed by the Bolsheviks. Vaitkus was also held in concentration camps by the Germans as well as by Russians. He remained alive thanks only to the fact that he was an American citizen and under the protection of the American Consulate in Moskaw. His story is extremely gruesome, but we are reprinting here only his story of the "elections" in Lithuania that led to the "incorporation" of that unfortunate country into the Soviet Union.

Election of the "Peoples Seim."

Thru press, radio, the Bolsheviks carried on a shameful propaganda that the Lithuanians of their own free accord have incorporated themselves into the Soviet Union; themselves have selected a Communist regime; and that the Lithuanians themselves invited the Russian Red Army. In short, the Lithuanians have choked themselves with their own hands. But this claim is far from true. It is the greatest lie, and I, myself, am witness to that lie.

I shall relate how the "elections" took place in the town of Kretinga on June of 1940, lasting for several days. The candidates were chosen by the Communist party; there were no other candidates for choice. Although I do not recall all the names, the following are some of the candidates: J. Paleckis, M. Gedvilas, L. Gira, L. Dovydenas, and Garmus. It was said that the elections would be free and secret. But such was not the case.

Urns were placed in a few sections of the town to receive the ballots. Small groups of people gathered around the urns to see who would actually vote. Communists and their followers were the first ones to cast their votes. Of the general population, only here and there was found one who "voted," casting into the urn an empty,